



**COMMUNITY PHARMACY FOUNDATION**  
COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

**Great Partners: Development of Effective Pharmacist-Physician Collaborations**

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<b>Objectives</b>	
1) To identify steps taken by successful community pharmacist-physician pairs to establish collaborative working relationships.	
<b>Methods</b>	
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful community pharmacist-physician pairs were identified by peers (faculty members from schools of pharmacy across the nation, leaders of national and state pharmacy organizations, and pharmacy clinical services managers).</li> <li>• These successful pairs were then asked to complete the Pharmacist-Physician Collaborative Index (PPCI), which is a validated scale that quantifies the degree of practitioner collaboration within the domains of: relationship initiation, trustworthiness, and role specification.</li> <li>• After completing the PPCI and a basic demographic survey, pairs were asked to participate in individual semi-structured interviews (both the pharmacist and the physician were interviewed.)</li> </ul>
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps taken by community pharmacists and physicians to initiate relationships, establish trustworthiness, and specify professional roles.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 5 community pharmacist-physician pairs agreed to participate and were interviewed.</li> <li>• The majority of pharmacists were male, had received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and practiced in a small community.</li> <li>• Most physicians were male, had received a Doctor of Medicine (in contrast to Doctor of Osteopathy), and were in private practice.</li> <li>• On the PPCI, pharmacists and physicians scored similarly on trustworthiness; physicians scored higher on relationship initiation and role specification.</li> <li>• Common steps taken to initiate relationships: Demonstrate common goals, determine the other professional's willingness to collaborate, establish open communication via face-to-face meetings, and identify the other professional's preferred communication style.</li> <li>• Common steps taken to establish trustworthiness: Pharmacists set the expectation for a high level of care by consistently providing high quality contributions over time; establishment and maintenance of open communication.</li> <li>• Common steps taken to specify professional roles: Consider professional norms and make intentions/desired roles clear at the beginning of relationship initiation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<p>These findings outline several steps that have been used by community pharmacists and physicians to develop strong patient care collaborations. This information may assist other community pharmacists and physicians interested in collaborating. A website using some of the findings from this study is under development and is designed to help students learn how to build these relationships.</p>	

For further information and/or materials on this grant, please visit  
[www.CommunityPharmacyFoundation.org](http://www.CommunityPharmacyFoundation.org) and submit your inquiry through **Contact\_Us**.